

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TORONT 02219 062330Z

73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 061956Z DEC 76

FM AMCONSUL TORONTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4628

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS TORONTO 2219

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SOPN, CA

SUBJECT: P.Q. VICTORY PROVIDING TRUDEAU WITH COMEBACK -NEWSPAPER
OPINION

1. IN HIS DECEMBER 5 COLUMN FOR THE TORONTO SUNDAY SUN, "PM'S SECOND COMEBACK", FORMER PC FEDERAL CABINET MINISTER PAUL HELLYER OBSERVED THAT THE P.Q. VICTORY IN QUEBEC "SEEMS TO BE HELPING PIERRE TRUDEAU MAKE A POLITICAL COMEBACK IN ENGLISH CANADA."

HELLYER DESCRIBED TRUDEAU'S STRATEGY THAT FUTURE OF CANADA "WILL REALLY BE DECIDED BY THE ATTITUDE OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING CANADIANS TOWARDS QUEBEC, AND MORE PARTICULARLY TOWARD BILINGUALISM." HE CONTINUED

THAT THE PRIME MINISTER "IS SUGGESTING THAT THE FUTURE OF CANADA AND HIS OWN POLITICAL FUTURE ARE SYNONYMOUS."

2. HELLYER WROTE THAT LIBERAL ORGANIZERS ARE CONVINCED THAT CANADIANS WILL RESPOND POSITIVELY AND THAT EVEN THE WORKINGS OF THE ANTI-INFLATION

BOARD ARE NOW MORE ACCEPTABLE. "ABOUT THE ONLY SOUR NOTE OF CONCERN RELATES TO THE CONTINUING STREAM OF REVELATIONS OF SCANDAL AND FINANCIAL MISMANAGEMENT."

3. COLUMN NOTED HOW LIBERAL WORKERS ENCOURAGED BY FORD ABILITY TO REDUCE 30 POINT DISADVANTAGE TO CLIFFHANGER SITUATION BY TIME OF U.S. ELECTION AND HOW THIS AND CANADIAN CIRCUMSTANCES BRINGING MORE LIBERALS OUT TO VOLUNTEER. ALSO THE LIBERALS ARE CONVINCED

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PAGE 02 TORONT 02219 062330Z

"THAT IN A ONE TO ONE TV DEBATE THE EXPERIENCED, QUICK-WITTED PM

WILL MAKE HAMBURG OF HIS TORY CHALLENGER".

4. HELLYER NOTED THAT SENATOR KEITH DAVEY HAD BEEN "ASSIGNED
RESPONSIBILITY FOR MASTERMINDING TRUDEAU'S SECOND COMEBACK".
DIGGINS

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NNN

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